Greetings!

I initiate this summer’s newsletter by featuring the responses of ConnCAP and EOP students: “How has your college readiness program changed your life’s trajectory?”

Students said they can now...
• manage time and prepare better for classes
• write a five-page paper and solve math problems
• interact better with people and respect their views
• collaborate as team players

Upon listening to the students’ personal experiences, it became evident that PAS Team continues to develop lifelong learners and productive citizens. Again, I thank the dedication of CCSU’s college peer mentors, summer faculty, CCSU campus community along with my staff for their promise and devotion. Students were reminded that by balancing challenging academics with a rich menu of educational and social activities, they will have a learning experience that’s truly transformative.

You will find this summer’s PAS 2013 Newsletter enlightening. Check it out!

Sincerely,

Awilda Reasco

Awilda Reasco, PAS Director
(ConnCAP & EOP)
At the end of June, right before the kick-off of the summer programs, more than seventy faculty, staff, and student workers gathered for the inaugural training day for the College Readiness Summer Programs. With warm welcoming words from CCSU’s Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Joseph Paige, we were well on our way to begin a day of training: information, exposure to departmental resources, and wise words of wisdom to ensure our students would have a safe, educated, healthy, and enjoyable time at CCSU this summer.

As Awilda said, “The students come first,” and she stated, while looking around the room at those attending, “I feel comfortable knowing that everyone is really there for the well-being of the students.”

As the training progressed, we had a Student Affairs Panel with Christopher Dukes, Director of Student Conduct; Jean Alicandro, Director of Residence Life; and Dr. Christopher Diamond, Director of Student Wellness Services. During this time, extensive information was given regarding how to’s, when to’s, who to refer to’s—as well as the opportunity to receive answers for questions that arose.

CCSU PD’s Sargent Jerry Erwin also joined us, giving exceptional information on safety and emergency procedures on campus. When you make a call from a blue light, the Police Department can utilize a camera nearby to see you and your surroundings. Naturally, faculty and staff across the board were comforted by being educated and trained on emergency procedures—when they can assist in a situation, and when it is necessary to get police involved.

This was the first time that CCSU’s College Readiness Programs gathered together to receive the same information and training.

“My think the training was phenomenal! We were able to bring together more than seventy staff members from programs that have similar missions and populations to serve. We were able to share thoughts, ideas and resources. The program book was a major asset and will prove to be valuable to all who attended. Awilda and her staff did a wonderful job!” - Dr. Joseph Paige, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Honoring Success and Accomplishments

On the evening of June 6, 2013, twenty-one of our New Britain High School ConnCAP Seniors were recognized for graduating from New Britain High School at the annual Rose Cord Ceremony. Each senior received a rose cord and gift bag from Milly Velez, ConnCAP High School Site Coordinator, in recognition of their successful completion of the ConnCAP Program!

ConnCAP students enjoyed an afternoon learning about real animals during an interactive informational session that took place on the last day of the summer program. PAS would like to thank Sue Sweeney, Student Activities & Leadership Development, for organizing this event along with RECentral.

New Britain Mayor Timothy O’Brien speaks to the ConnCAP students and parents at the Closing Awards Ceremony on August 2, 2013.

Graduating ConnCAP Seniors 2014

ConnCAP students engaged in a series of workshops this summer that were conducted by CCSU’s CACE, Admissions, Athletics, Travelers EDGE, Financial Aid, Residence Life and RECentral departments. Additionally, they were given a tour of the Student Center that included the CCSU Barnes and Noble Bookstore and Breakers.

Congrats to the ConnCAP Graduates - Class of 2013

ConnCAP Class of 2014
The Central Connecticut State University Educational Opportunity Program welcomes the new class of entering students. Forty-four students have taken the challenge of “the summer that will change your life” in hopes that they will become full-time matriculated students in the fall. EOP students had the opportunity to listen and welcome numerous guest speakers. Mr. Ken Poppe, Director of the Center for Advising and Career (CACE) stopped in to discuss the services that his department has to offer. Dr. David Fearon and Dr. Kathleen Wall, professors from the Department of Management and Organization, spoke to students on the opportunities provided by the Travelers’ EDGE Program. Mr. Christopher Dukes, Director of Student Conduct, presented an energetic speech on how students should conduct themselves on and off campus. Mr. Michael An-sarra, Senior Associate Director of Athletics, utilized the opportunity to recruit future work-study students. Charles Jones Jr., former EOP and Athletics Director, shared the history of EOP to the students. Mrs. Leah Skinner, CACE Advising and Career Specialist, presented on the topic “Dress For Success”. Finally, we had a former EOP alumnus (summer of 1999), Mrs. Bianca Shinn-Desras, Minister Counselor at Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations, who served as the keynote speaker at the annual “EOP Summer Mentoring Luncheon.” She inspired students by sharing what it takes to be successful.
ConnCAP recognizes the importance of etiquette and networking in the 21st century. Today we live in a society where face-to-face networking opens the doors to many opportunities. Therefore, we encourage maintaining interpersonal communication over a meal. ConnCAP students strive to not only be trained academically but also socially. Proper social skills are necessary for students when meeting with professors, advisors, and future employers. Among the skills students practiced were appropriate conversation topics and familiarity with table settings. A special thanks to Lori Backus!

ConnCAP Etiquette Banquet, May 2013

ConnCAP 8th Graders Jazmin, Tanairys, Miriam, and Genny put their new etiquette lesson to use!

Second Row: Shawna Saldana, Miriam Aguilar, Chloe Santana, Glorimar Villatoro, and Evamary Largaespada (ConnCAP Alum). 
Bottom Row: Maaz Uddin, Marcellus Bonet, Jesus Tobon-Escobedo, and Kenneth Rivera.
We would like to thank all of the ConnCAP teachers for a productive summer of 2013!

Students learned how to make ice cream!

The ConnCAP Program has a rigorous academic schedule, but the students also had many opportunities to do hands-on projects such as making ice cream and tie-dyeing t-shirts. In addition, they ended their summer program with an entertaining day of dancing and fitness activities hosted by CCSU’s RECentral. Lastly, there was an award ceremony in Torp Theatre with all of the teachers, students, and their families.

Photograph (Right): Shirami Barceló and student, Nathaniel Sanchez

Sue Sweeney and Awilda Reasco at ConnCAP’s Field Day.

Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.

~ John F. Kennedy

We would like to thank all of the ConnCAP teachers for a productive summer of 2013!
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